

REMARKS

Claims 17 to 32 are pending in this application of which claims 17 and 28 are the independent claims. Favorable reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 17, 18 and 28 were objected to for allegedly containing the phrase “a predetermined error checking method.” Applicant has amended the claims to read “a predetermined error checking technique”, as recommended by the Examiner.

Claims 17 to 32 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

Claims 26 and 31 were rejected because the Examiner asserts that the phrase “second reevaluation memory for assisting in allocating said new connection identifier to said destination address” in claim 26, and the phrase “second reevaluation memory for assisting in allocating said new connection identifier to at least one destination address” in claim 31 were said to be unclear. Accordingly, Applicant has amended these claims for clarity, as shown above.

Claims 27 and 32 were rejected because “said second revaluation memory” allegedly does not contain an antecedent. Accordingly, Applicant has amended claim 27 to depend on 26 and amended claim 32 to depend on claim 31.

Turning to the prior art rejections, claims 17, 22 and 28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 over Acharya et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,903,559) in view of Burwell et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,818,842). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Claim 17 is directed to a method of operating a communication network. The method includes employing data frames defined by a first protocol. Each data frame contains a

destination address that identifies a data frame receiver to receive the data frames and message data. The method also includes generating data packets for transmission from the data frame that are defined by a second protocol; and each data packet contains a connection identifier that identifies a data packet receiver to receive the data packet and a portion of the data frame. The method further includes transmitting the data packets over the communication network and; upon receipt in a receiver of a transmitted data packet that contains a destination address of a subject data frame, reading the destination address of the subject data frame from the data packet. The method further includes determining a new connection identifier based on the destination address read that identifies a new data packet receiver. The method includes generating, prior to receipt of all of the data packets of the subject data frame, new data packets from the data packets received from the subject data frame that contain the new connection identifier. The method includes checking message data of the subject data frame for transmission errors according to a predetermined error checking technique. The predetermined error checking technique includes comparing a reference data that has a rated value contained in the subject data frame to the message data. The method further includes transmitting the new data packets of the subject data frame that are error-free to the new data packet receiver.

The applied art is not understood to disclose or to suggest the foregoing features of claim 17. In particular, neither Acharya nor Burwell, taken separately or in combination, are understood to disclose or to suggest generating, prior to receipt of all of said data packets of said data frame, new data packets from said data packets received from said data frame.

In particular, Acharya does not mention when the new data packets are generated much less that these new packets are generated, prior to the receipt of all data packets of a frame

(column 7 lines 25 to 51). As understood by the Applicant, Acharya describes receiving a packet and storing ATM cells associated with the VC of the packet in a queue while the packet is being processed to determine the next hop. Once the new hop is determined for the packet all the ATM cells are flushed from the queue.

Furthermore, Burwell mentions that packets are received and forwarded, but does not indicate that the new packets are generated before receipt of the final packet of a frame (column 8 lines 43 to line 67).

The noted distinction is not trivial, but represents an inventive step, as will be appreciated by those in the telecommunications industry. As disclosed by the Applicant in the specification, by generating new packets before all data packets are received of the data frame allows for the transmission of new packets to already be begun shortly after the reception of the last data packet of the data frame (page 3 lines 8 to 12). Thus, higher data rates can be achieved with fewer data packets being rejected from errors thereby being particularly advantageous when data rates are in the range of 50 megabits per second and above (page 3 lines 21 to 26). For at least the reasons above, claim 17 is believed to be allowable.

Claim 28 roughly corresponds to claim 17 and, therefore, is believed to be allowable for at least the same reasons noted above with respect to claim 17.

In view of the foregoing remarks, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

All correspondence should be directed to the above address. Applicant's attorney can be reached by telephone at the number shown above.